gates into and registers cases of malpractices and disciplinary proceedings against officials are initiated when the charges are Prima facie established. However, the Deptt. of Telecom. have proposed to the CBI to create special cells to investigate cases of malpractices leading to leakage of telephone revenue.

Embezzlement in Postal Services in Himachal Pradesh

1597. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some officers of the Postal Services in the Himachal Circle have been suspended recently after alleged embezzlement of about Rupees Twenty-five Lakhs;

(b) whether an enquiry was ordered into this and the report has been received;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the further action taken in the matter; and

(e) the step taken to prevent such embezzlements in future?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It would not be advisable to give the particulars as investigations are going on against the main culprit by the CBI.

(d) Necessary disciplinary action is being taken against all those who are responsible for the commission of and contributing to the fraud.

(e) Steps have been taken to improve the supervision of the higher management in the working of the smaller P.Os with huge cash collections. Measures are taken to improve the monitoring system to ensure proper accounting of the funds collected.

Expansion of Relay Centres of Doordarshan in Maharashtra

1598. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide expansion of relay centres of Doordarshan in Maharashtra especially in Western Maharashtra during the year 1991-92 & 1992-93; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. It is proposed to augment TV service in Maharashtra by establishment of TV transmitters at Khamgaon, Hinganghat, Akot, Akluj, Kankauli, Hathikhamba and Jaigaon, subject to actual availability of resources and inter-se priorities.

Upgradation of Post Offices of Gujarat

1599. KUMARI DIPIKA CHIKHLIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices in Gujarat State at present;

(b) whether the Government upgraded some of the post offices during the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof particularly in Vadodara District?

THE DEPUTUY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The total number of post offices of Gujarat is 8818 as on 30.9.91.

(b) and (c). During the Seventh Five Year Plan only one extra departmental branch post office namely Bhestan extra departmental branch post office was upgraded in Surat district of Vadodara Postal Region.

Backlog of Vacancies Reserved for SCs/STs

1600. SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the backlog of vacancies of posts reserved for scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates, both in the category of officers and other categories, in the Ministry of Welfare, in the beginning of this year;

(b) the progress made in filling up these reserved posts during the last three months; and

(c) the time by which the remaining reserved posts are expected to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (c). The number of vacant posts in the Ministry is reported to the Department of Personnel & Training from time to time. The posts are filled up under the Central Staffing Scheme or the Central Secretariat Services Scheme by Department of Personnel and Training who also monitor the fulfilment of reservation quota for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in respect of such posts. There are only a few posts for which recruitment is made directly by the Ministry of Welfare. There is no backing in raspect of such posts in the Ministry of Welfare.

Target Achievement of Post and Telegraph Office in Kerala

1601. SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for setting up of post and telegraph offices in Alleppey and Pathanamthitta districts in Kerala during 1990-91;

(b) whether the targets have been achieved;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of post and telegraph offices proposed to be set up during 1991-92?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). A target of opening 50 extra-departmental branch postal offices was fixed for Kerala Postal circle during 1990-91 which has been achieved. No seperate target in this respect for opening of Post Offices and telegraph offices was fixed for these two districts during 1990-91. However, two extra-departmental branch post offices in Alleppey and 8 in Pathanamathitta district were opened during the year.

(c) The question does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

(d) A target for opening 55 extra-departmental branch post offices has been fixed for Kerala Post Circle during the year 1991-92. This includes a target of opening 5 extra-departmental branch post offices for Lakshadweep Union territory. It is further proposed to open 4 extra departmental branch post offices at Pathanamathitta and 2 in Alleppey district during 1991-92 subject to justification and within the overall target fixed